



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
EDUCATION ACTIVITY  
4040 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22203-1635

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE DEPENDENTS EDUCATION  
COUNCIL

SUBJECT: DEC Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2003

On November 14, 2003, the Dependents Education Council (DEC) met at the Webb Building, 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia. The meeting was hosted and chaired by the Honorable Charles Abell, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. A listing of attendees is attached.

**DEC MEETING OVERVIEW:**

Dr. Joseph D. Tafoya, Director, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and Executive Secretary, DEC, opened the meeting. Mr. Abell provided opening comments and asked the members to introduce themselves.

There were no changes or corrections offered to the June 26, 2003, DEC minutes.

The meeting proceeded with discussions and briefings of previous DEC issues including:

**INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS:**

Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS ) Transfer Study

Dr. Tafoya provided the group with an update of the ongoing DDESS transfer study, and the results of Phase I of the three-phased effort. The final report for Phase II is expected at the end of November or December 2003. He explained that similar studies will take place at some future time in Europe and in the Pacific to look at schools and determine needs over the next 10 years.

There was discussion during the briefing regarding the emotional aspects of the study, the impact on military families during wartime, and the ability/willingness of the local school systems to provide services. Participants were assured that the entire process will continue to be open, consultative, and deliberative, with the services having the opportunity to provide their input.

(Item Open)

### Budget Update

Ms. Irma Finocchiaro, Acting Associate Director for Financial and Business Operations, provided a briefing on the FY 2003 budget reductions and restorals, the FY 2004 budget, and the FY 2005-09 Budget Change Proposals. Discussion centered around DoDEA's strategy to absorb cuts at above school level and reducing impact at the school and classroom levels. Additional comments brought up questions regarding the foreign currency fluctuation in Europe and Pacific and the effect on DoDEA's budget.

(Item Open)

### Military Construction

Ms. Finocchiaro provided an update on the status of funding for Military Construction for FY 2004 and projects rescinded in FY 2003. She also briefed on the status of monies for construction of the new schools in Guam. Discussion followed regarding DoDEA's desire to be apprised of any changes on Guam that would effect the configuration of the planned construction. Continuing discussion focused on the funding for the Rota multi-purpose room.

(Item Open)

### Summer School for DoDEA Students

Dr. Elizabeth Middlemiss, Associate Director for Education and Principal Deputy Director, DoDEA provided a briefing for the group regarding DoDEA's plans for summer school programs for summer 2004. Discussion items were the appropriateness of the offerings for Home Schooling, and whether the focus of the programs this year is geared to enrichment or remedial studies.

(Item Open)

### Accountability System

Dr. Janet Rope, Administrator, System Accountability and Research presented the accountability system proposal for ranking of DoDEA schools as a result of an initiative within the "No Child Left Behind Program." Concern was shared by all regarding any ranking of the schools, however good, being categorized as the worst school in DoDEA. Commands expressed that the quality of schools is a determining factor for service members participating in a transfer of duty stations. The DEC will be consulted prior to the implementation of any system for ranking schools.

(Item Tabled)

## Eligibility Issues

Mr. Mike Lynch, DoDEA Chief of Staff presented the proposed plan of action to correct existing errors in the eligibility assignment of students in DoDEA.

- Space Available, Tuition Free

Recommend DoDEA cease staffing for all Space Available, Tuition Free students, including English as a Second Language (ESL), with implementation in 2004.

Discussion followed regarding the number of students involved and the need to be able to screen students for English language proficiency. Mr. Abell stated that it is necessary for DoDEA to obey the law regarding this category of students. Measures to be compliant will be implemented by SY 2005-06.

- NATO Students at SHAPE HQ

Students in this category have no authority to attend DoDEA schools. Discussion focused on the fact that this is only allowed at SHAPE HQ from a long standing practice. There is no question that this needs to be resolved. EUCOM expressed a preference for a waiver at SHAPE HQ of one year, as opposed to an effective date of compliance of SY 2005-06. EUCOM was tasked to provide a bridge to the final state and to discuss at the next DEC.

- Army/AF Guard, Title 32

These students in Guam and Puerto Rico are not eligible to attend. The military sponsor work for the territory – equivalent of a state – not employed by U.S. Government.

Implement in

SY 2004 while allowing rising seniors to complete their education.

- Non-DoD Schools in English Speaking Countries

Use of public schools is required in English speaking countries. The group agreed that transition issues for high school students should be examined and presented at the June 2004 DEC meeting before making any recommendations.

- United Service Organizations (USO)

Mr. Lynch presented the proposal to change USO to a Space-Available, Tuition-Paying, making it similar to all other private organizations.

- Short Tours and Others

Short tour and other reservists assigned overseas and activated overseas, and military/civilians on short tours without dependents authorization are currently Space-Available, Tuition Free. The proposed change is to Space-Available, Tuition-Paying. There was discussion regarding the hardship this puts on families that are already overseas. There is no intention to disadvantage DoD civilian employees who are already working overseas and called to active duty. DoDEA will do additional fact-finding and report back in the June 2004 DEC meeting.

#### Mathematics in DoDEA Schools

Dr. Tafoya briefed the group on math assessment scores within DoDEA, professional development initiatives for math teachers for SY 2001-04, and described the next steps in the mathematics arena including the Math Matters focus for this school year. Great strides have been made in math as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Process scores.

(Item Open)

#### Teacher Transfer Study

Dr. Tafoya discussed the results of the Teacher Transfer Program for SY 2003-04, which was designed to facilitate more transfers into and out of hardship areas. The program was successful and moved 299 teachers.

There was discussion following the briefing regarding the impact that upcoming changes in bases could have on this program. It would not be prudent to transfer teachers to schools where the population could change in the near future.

(Item Open)

### **ISSUE PAPERS**

#### Unified Legislation and Budgeting (ULB) Proposal Update

Mr. Lynch presented the issue papers on the two ULB issues.

- Appropriated Fund/Non-Appropriated Fund Dependent Eligibility Change

This proposal was resubmitted following the June 2003 DEC meeting, and is now in the Omnibus process for submission to OMB.

(Item Open)

- Contractor Dependent Eligibility Change

Following the June 2003 DEC meeting, this proposal was resubmitted for consideration. On October 16, 2003, it was pulled from the FY 2005 submission due to lack of approval. The initiative will be submitted again in FY 2006.

(Item Open)

#### Compensation for Extra-Duty Assignments

Dr. Middlemiss spoke regarding equitable pay for extra duty assignments. The regulation will be rewritten to provide equal pay for all persons performing extra duty. The regulation will be in place for SY 2004-05.

(Item Closed)

#### National Science Foundation (NSF) Math-Science Grant

Dr. Middlemiss discussed the DoDEA submission for the NSF grant. Based on feedback from the grant reviewers, DoDEA will submit another proposal in mid December. Letters of support will be requested from commanders.

(Item Open)

#### Family Care Plans

Mr. Lynch discussed the paper on Family Care Plans. This is implemented when a child of a military member(s) must change locations because of the deployment of the parent(s). Custody of the child must be transferred.

Mr. Abell tasked DoDEA to coordinate this action through personnel and legal channels and ensure DEC members become emissaries to their respective commands.

(Item Open)

### Guidance for Overseas Installation Commanders Regarding Home Schooling

Ms. Maxanne Witkin, DoDEA General Counsel, presented the training guidance for installation commanders in reference to home schooling. There was a request for the information to be provided to the group on CDs.

(Item Closed)

### Residential Placement of High School Students in CONUS

Mr. Lynch presented this issue paper regarding a request to consider allowing students in Central and South America to attend residential schools in the U.S., or provide a centrally located dorm on a base in the states. Evaluation will be delayed until there is a final resolution on the status of the London Dorm, based on future realignment in Europe.

(Open)

### Meal Programs

DoDEA had been tasked to work with Department of Agriculture to ask for the exclusion of housing allowances in the computation of calculating eligibility for free and reduced meals.

A draft directive which changes the income eligibility guidelines has been submitted for staffing and DoDEA hopes for a new directive in about 45 days.

(Item Open)

### Updates on Planned Changes on Military Installations

Discussion was delayed until a future point.

(Item Open)

### Around the Table Discussions/Comments:

Block Leave for Military Spouse Teacher: BG Frutiger brought up a USAREUR concern about the length of time DoDEA teachers would be permitted to take leave to be with soldiers on R&R/block leave. DoDEA informed the DEC that teachers have 3 days APL that could be used for this purpose. BG Frutiger asked if more time could be granted for this purpose. Mr. Abell said that he and Mr. Molino would further discuss this issue.

Teacher Transfer Program: There were questions concerning why the Teacher Transfer Program was put in place, how is the program working, and if the DoD is getting its money worth from the program. Dr. Tafoya agreed to discuss these issues at the next DEC.

The proposed meeting schedule was approved as below:

Spring PreDEC	May 19, 2004
Spring DEC	June 23, 2004
Fall PreDEC	October 6, 2004
Fall DEC	November 4, 2004